



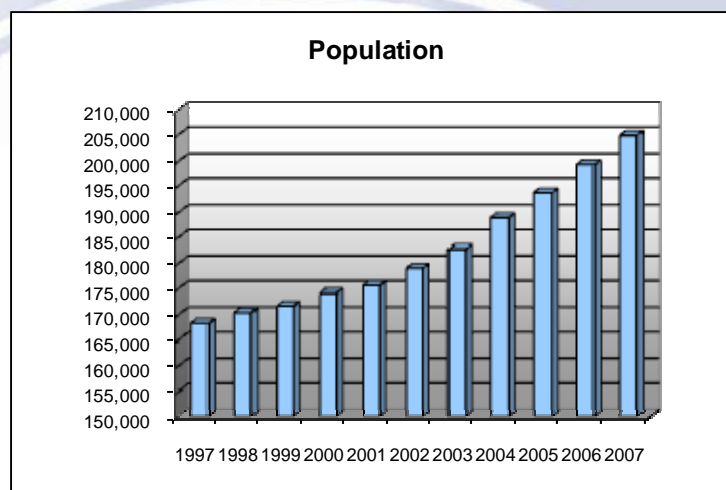
East Central Idaho

December 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

East central Idaho consists of nine diverse counties: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton Counties. The area grew by over 36,500 during the decade, with Madison, Teton, Jefferson and Bonneville counties experiencing the largest amount of growth. Bonneville and Jefferson counties were established as the Idaho Falls metropolitan statistical area from the 2000 Census count. This metropolitan area has received a lot of national attention because of its high growth and low unemployment rates compared to the other Idaho metro areas. It is currently one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the nation. Due to a lower cost of living, good work-force and plentiful recreational opportunities, growth is expected to continue.

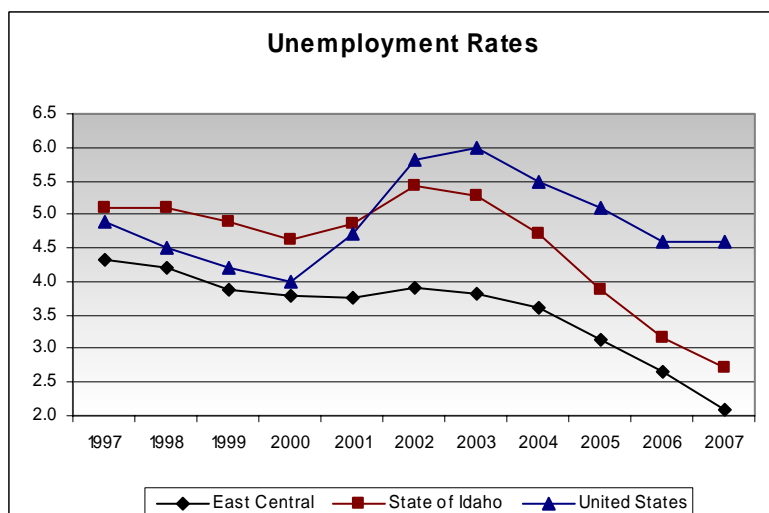


Labor Force & Employment

The unemployment rate for east central Idaho is extremely low compared to the state and the nation. While 2008 will show an increase, the area is still the lowest in the state. Diversity in the economy along with the Idaho National Laboratory keeps the area from experiencing major fluctuations in the labor force especially when the national economy is suffering. The INL is one of the state's largest employers and attracts workers from all of the region's counties.

The labor force actually grew by over 17,000 people during the decade and the number of unemployed decreased by almost 1,500.

All nine counties are heavily involved in agriculture and indirectly related industries such as wholesale food sales and food processing. The city of Idaho Falls is a regional hub for retail and health. The region is a gateway to many



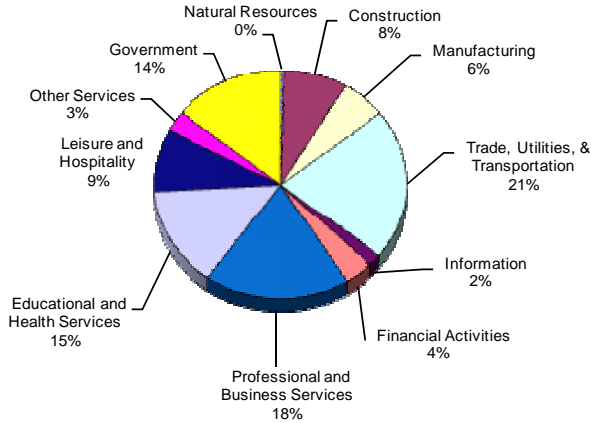
popular tourist destinations such as Yellowstone National Park and literally has hundreds of thousands of tourists pass through it annually on Highway 20. Henry's Lake – known worldwide for fly fishing and the highest point in the state, Borah Peak – are some of the destination attractions. Butte County is home to the world's first nuclear power plant, EBR-1, and had the first city in the world, Arco, to use electricity produced by heat from nuclear energy. The inventor of television, Philo Farnsworth, was from Jefferson County. The large mountains, deep rivers and fertile valleys give the area beauty and diversity.

Labor Force	Nov 2007	Nov 2008
Civilian Labor Force	98,661	97,154
Total Employment	96,813	93,236
Unemployed	1,848	3,918
East Central Idaho % Unemployed	1.9	4.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.8
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.7

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	80,745	82,454	83,178	81,292	83,414	84,908	87,081	89,373	93,182	94,179	97,783
Unemployment	3,495	3,474	3,221	3,091	3,139	3,324	3,320	3,237	2,928	2,492	2,047
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.1	2.6	2.1
Employment	77,250	78,980	79,957	78,201	80,275	81,584	83,761	86,136	90,254	91,687	95,736

Prepared by Tanya Albán, Regional Economist, Idaho Department of Labor • 1515 E. Lincoln Road, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401
 Phone: (208) 557-2500, ext. 3587 • e-mail: tanya.alban@labor.idaho.gov • Labor Market Information Web site: lmi.idaho.gov.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Major Employers

Battelle Energy Alliance
 Bechtel Bettis
 Bechtel BWXT
 Brigham Young University Idaho
 CH2M-WG Idaho LLC
 Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
 Melaleuca, Inc.
 Qwest Communications
 Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Bookkeeper	\$8.18
Cashiers	\$6.55
Computer Tech	\$11.99
Customer Service Rep	\$8.07
Dental Assistant	\$10.79
Engineers (All)	\$22.91
Janitor & Cleaner	\$7.97
Laborer & Material Handler	\$6.55
Office Clerk	\$7.14
Registered Nurse	\$19.38
Salesperson, Retail	\$7.17
Secretary	\$9.13
Teacher	\$17.16
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$9.95
Waiter/Waitress	\$6.55

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employers

Average employment increased by almost 21,000 during the decade and average wages increased by over \$8,600. The larger industries are trade, health and education, government and professional and business services — many INL jobs. Government includes the local, state and federal departments operating in the region, but also includes hospitals and correctional facilities operated by these governments. Other significant government employers are the U.S. Departments of Energy, Agriculture and Bureau of Land Management along with Idaho Fish and Game. Construction and leisure & hospitality are also strong.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	64,408	\$24,183	81,621	\$31,957	85,173	\$32,871
Agriculture	2,877	\$17,115	2,323	\$23,887	2,190	\$24,473
Mining	566	\$39,334	291	\$79,880	349	\$74,263
Construction	3,740	\$26,124	6,260	\$28,911	6,974	\$32,567
Manufacturing	3,979	\$20,929	5,001	\$28,982	5,145	\$30,578
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	15,382	\$18,234	17,808	\$26,191	18,488	\$27,343
Information	892	\$22,804	1,552	\$34,124	1,524	\$33,915
Financial Activities	2,068	\$20,739	3,011	\$31,489	3,096	\$33,449
Professional and Business Services	11,007	\$42,853	15,306	\$51,599	15,858	\$51,610
Educational and Health Services	6,333	\$25,298	9,734	\$32,194	10,185	\$33,170
Leisure and Hospitality	5,517	\$8,367	6,843	\$10,482	7,451	\$11,250
Other Services	1,477	\$16,414	1,803	\$22,598	1,827	\$22,999
Government	10,571	\$24,512	11,689	\$31,989	12,087	\$32,505

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
East Central Idaho	\$23,068	\$24,241	\$25,613	\$27,535	\$27,993	\$28,152	\$28,385	\$30,447	\$31,195	\$33,034
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714